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MR HELMS, 4 NEW YORK (EMBARGOED) *

HE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MR FORD FOR REVEALING AT A MEETING WITH NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS THAT THE CIA MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATIONS AGAINST FOUR FOREIGN LEADERS.

MR FORD'S COMMENTS LATER WERE LEAKED TO FORMER CBS CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SCHORR, WHO USED IT IN A TELEVISION BROADCAST AND WAS THEN ACCUSED BY MR. HELMS OF BEING A KILLER.

MR HELMS SAID THE ACCUSATIONS ABOUT ASSASSINATIONS WERE UNTRUE BUT HAD NOT BEEN DENIED AND THEREFORE FESTERED AND TOOK ROOT IN THE PUBLIC'S MIND.

"THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PLOTS, BUT CERTAINLY NO ASSASSINATIONS," HE SAID. *

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